



Omega Ensemble

2019 Concert Season

BANG & OLUFSEN

Season Partner

David Rowden

Principal Clarinet / Artistic Director



2019 Concert Season

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Welcome



From the Chairman

I was first introduced to Omega Ensemble by close friends, ardent supporters of the Ensemble, who for some time encouraged me to get involved with the organisation and its work.

Since then, what has impressed me most about the Ensemble and its community of concert goers, listeners, and supporters, has been their intense commitment to bringing chamber music to life, and in doing so, creating joyful and exciting experiences for people from diverse backgrounds and of all ages.

My fellow Board members and I are very excited about working with Artistic Directors David Rowden and Maria Raspopova, the exceptional artists who comprise the Ensemble, our patrons, subscribers, audiences, and our management team to bring the enjoyment of transformative music and its enjoyment to even more people across Australia – to delight, and sometimes, perhaps, even startle.

I invite you to come with us on this journey.

Wayne Burns
Chairman

From the Artistic Directors

Often on stage, you find yourself in a moment, taken by surprise, where the difference between ecstasy or heartbreak, beauty or agony, is no longer clear. A moment that words simply cannot describe, where the music begins to speak in its own voice, independent from the composer's intentions or those of the musicians performing.

It's these moments, the spaces between the notes, that we hope to share with you in our 2019 Concert Season.

In our fourteenth year, we continue to champion Australia's leading musicians and explore, challenge and rediscover incredible chamber music repertoire.

With no fewer than five world premieres, of works by composers from home and abroad, and a line-up of incredible guest artists, our 2019 Season is sure to be a year of surprises.

We hope you will join us and together discover the space between the notes.

David Rowden & Maria Raspopova
Artistic Directors

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Beethoven's Trio

... a smorgasbord of chamber music... played by first-rate musicians.

The Daily Telegraph

A transfigured trio of trios by Beethoven, Schoenberg and Mendelssohn.

Critics were not always kind to Beethoven, whose Clarinet Trio was initially pronounced 'unnatural' due to its variety of keys and strikingly colourful variations which make it one of his most thrilling trios. Originally for string sextet, Schoenberg's *Transfigured Night* is an early masterpiece by the composer, performed in this program in Edward Steuermann's brilliant and imaginative version for piano trio. Mendelssohn's first Piano Trio was so assured that it was hailed as the product of his 'best and most beautiful hours'. It brings together his love of Romanticism and Baroque counterpoint, as well as his own gifts for expressive, song-like melody.

PROGRAM

Mendelssohn Piano Trio No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 49

Schoenberg Verklärte Nacht, Op. 4 (arr. Edward Steuermann)

Beethoven Trio in E-Flat Major, Op. 38

PERFORMANCE

Saturday 16 February 2019

Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House

2:30pm

Grand Mozart

... not a single foot wrong... distinguished playing throughout.

Limelight Magazine

The unassuming 'voice of God' in an all-Mozart affair for winds and piano.

Mozart's mastery of the keyboard is perhaps matched only by his love of winds. As a liveried servant working for the hated Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, Mozart composed many wind serenades for aristocratic entertainment. However, his greatest work for winds, the 'Gran Partita' serenade was written only after he had left Salzburg and settled in Vienna, a musical revenge, of sorts, on his former employer. Described by Salieri in the 1984 Academy Award winning film, *Amadeus*, as 'the voice of God', this true masterwork is presented here alongside his Quintet for Piano and Winds and the Piano Sonata No. 11.

PROGRAM

Mozart Quintet for Piano and Winds in E-Flat Major, K. 452

Mozart Piano Sonata No. 11 in A Major, K. 331/300

Mozart Serenade in B-Flat Major, K.361/370a, 'Gran Partita'

PERFORMANCE

Tuesday 9 April 2019

City Recital Hall

7:30pm

Alexandra Osborne
Principal Violin



Celia Craig
Principal Oboe



Brahms in Love

★★★★ ... first-class playing... a superb performance...

Limelight Magazine

Musical dedications, devotions and sounds of simple delight.

In 1891, on the verge of retirement and abandoning composition altogether, Brahms heard the glorious playing of clarinetist Richard Mühlfeld. Captivated, he composed a series of late masterpieces including the Clarinet Trio in A Minor. Filled with warm musical colours and personal tributes, a friend commented to the composer that the instruments must be 'in love'. In this spirit, Omega Ensemble presents three accompanying works written for, and dedicated to, the partnership of clarinetist David Rowden and pianist Maria Raspopova, including a world premiere work by US-based Australian composer Nicole Brady.

PROGRAM

Palmer Sonata for Clarinet and Piano
Anderson Miniatures
Brady New Commission [World Premiere]
Brahms Clarinet Trio in A minor, Op. 114

PERFORMANCE

Saturday 15 June 2019
Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House
2:30pm

American Masters

... savvy programming and superlative delivery...

Limelight Magazine

Star-spangled masterworks and a world premiere from composer Nico Muhly.

American composers Philip Glass and Steve Reich changed the face of contemporary music with their revolutionary works built on simple harmony and hypnotic repetition. Where initial audiences were baffled, this music is now recognised for its textural richness and the expansion of classical forms. Schooled in this American tradition (including working as Glass' assistant) composer Nico Muhly's work incorporates stylistic fragments from Byrd to Webern, as well as his collaborations with contemporary musicians such as Björk, Sufjan Stevens and Bryce Dessner. This program features a commissioned work by Muhly with a setting of a tenderly erotic poem by Constantine Cavafy.

PROGRAM

Glass Sonata for Violin and Piano
Adams Shaker Loops
Muhly By All Means
Muhly No Uncertain Terms
Muhly Work for Chamber Orchestra [World Premiere]*

FEATURED ARTISTS

Brett Brown, baritone
Sally Whitwell, piano
Gordon Hamilton, conductor

PERFORMANCE

Tuesday 2 July 2019
City Recital Hall
7:30pm

* Supported by Mark Wakely in loving memory of Steven Alward





Mahler One

★★★★ ... filled the hall with an enthusiastic audience and magical sounds.

Sydney Morning Herald

Symphonic forces take new form with an electrifying presentation of Mahler's 'Titanic' work.

Mahler's symphonies are recognised for their orchestral might, however the composer often draws on pure chamber music textures in his work to achieve his impressive sound. In this thrilling chamber arrangement by British composer Iain Farrington, the vast orchestral forces are harnessed by 15 soloists, revealing hidden details in the score and the power of Mahler's gestures and intricacy. This performance is accompanied by a quintet presentation of Chopin's luscious Piano Concerto No. 1 and a world premiere work by Australian composer Gordon Kerry.

PROGRAM

Mahler Symphony No. 1, 'The Titan' (arr. Iain Farrington)

Chopin Piano Concerto No. 1 in E Minor, Op. 11 (arr. Kenner & Dombek)

Kerry Clarinet Quintet [World Premiere]*

PERFORMANCE

Tuesday 10 September 2019

City Recital Hall

7:30pm

* Supported by Kim Williams AM

Romantic Chopin

... beautiful reading... a pianist who could play anything.

Limelight Magazine

Passion, drama, and romantic landscapes in this all-Chopin piano recital.

Romantic composers often cultivated works which were deliberately fragmentary, allusive and poetic, in sharp contrast to the formal elaboration of the classical period. Chopin's short piano works surprised many, composed as miniature jewels, each completely abstract and with its own unique character and form, but never explicitly pictorial or programmatic. Artistic Director and Pianist Maria Raspopova presents two of Chopin's most romantic piano collections, full of spirit and showmanship, in the intimate Utzon Room.

PROGRAM

Chopin 24 Preludes, Op. 28

Chopin Ballades No. 1-4

PERFORMANCE

Saturday 5 October 2019

Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House

2:30pm

Maria Raspopova
Principal Piano / Artistic Director



Neil Thompson
Principal Viola



Eternal Requiems

with The Australian Voices

... as if the gates of heaven had opened.

New York Times

The Australian Voices join Omega Ensemble for a program of vocal chamber works and re-works.

Praised as 'the finest choral singing... ever heard in Australia' (Limelight Magazine), Brisbane-based choir The Australian Voices join Sydney's 'chamber music all-stars' for a performance where spiritual and modern worlds collide. With sublime favourites by Fauré and Mozart, the performance also includes a rare presentation of Britten's forceful *Cantata Misericordium* and a 're-composition' of Mozart's glorious Requiem by the choir's Artistic Director and composer Gordon Hamilton.

PROGRAM

Fauré Requiem

Mozart Ave Verum Corpus

Fauré Cantique de Jean Racine

Britten Cantata

Misericordium, Op. 69

Mozart/Hamilton Requiem
[Re-composed]

PERFORMANCE

Tuesday 5 November 2019

City Recital Hall

7:30pm

FEATURED ARTISTS

The Australian Voices

Gordon Hamilton,
conductor

Summer Winds II

... always a delight to watch and hear...

The Daily Telegraph

The Omega Wind Quintet returns for a second instalment of favourites in the picturesque Utzon Room.

Following on from their sell-out performance in 2018, Omega's wind players present another summer afternoon of colour and bravura. From the simple uncomplicated style of Jean-Michel Damase to the ever-surprising music of Luciano Berio, this performance also includes the recently rediscovered and restored Quintet by Gustav Holst, and the world premiere of a new work by Russo-Canadian clarinetist and composer Airat Ichmouratov.

PROGRAM

Holst Wind Quintet in A-Flat Major, Op. 14

Ligeti Six Bagatelles for Wind Quintet

Damase 17 Variations for Wind Quintet, Op. 22

Berio Opus Number Zoo

Ichmouratov New Commission [World Premiere]

PERFORMANCE

Saturday 7 December 2019

Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House

2:30pm

Alex Henery
Principal Double Bass



2019 Artists

Principal Musicians



Sally Walker
Flute



Celia Craig
Oboe



David Rowden
Clarinet



Michael Dixon
Horn



Alexandra Osborne
Violin



Veronique Serret
Violin



Neil Thompson
Viola



Paul Stender
Cello



Alex Henery
Double Bass



Maria Raspopova
Piano

Associate Musicians

Eve Osborne, oboe
Georgina Oakes, clarinet
Mark Gaydon, bassoon
Matthew Kneale, bassoon
John Foster, trumpet
Nigel Crocker, trombone

Sun Yi, violin
Rowena Macneish, cello
Mark Robinson, percussion
Owen Torr, harp
Clemens Leske, piano

Guest Artists and Composers



Brett Brown
Baritone (AUS/UK)



Sally Whitwell
Piano (AUS)



Gordon Hamilton
Conductor/Composer (AUS)



The Australian Voices
Choir (AUS)



Nico Muhly
Composer (USA)



Gordon Kerry
Composer (AUS)



Nicole Brady
Composer (AUS)



Airat Ichmouratov
Composer (CAN/RUS)

Michael Dixon
Principal Horn



Donors

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For more information visit omegaensemble.com.au/support

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Mr Cameron Williams

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Anonymous (4)

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Professor Bridget Wilcken AM
Anonymous (2)

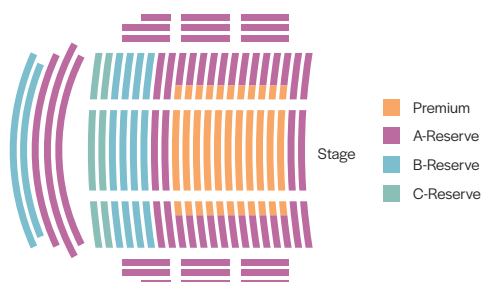
Da Capo \$250+

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late Professor Peter Alexander
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Ms Jennifer Boland
Ms Jan Bowen AM
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Tickets and Subscriptions

City Recital Hall

Angel Place, Sydney NSW 2000



Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House

Bennelong Point, Sydney NSW 2000



Single Tickets

	Premium	A-Reserve / GA	B-Reserve	C-Reserve
Adult / Full	\$129	\$99	\$89	\$49
Concession		\$79	\$69	\$39
Student / Under 30s		\$25	\$25	\$25

Subscriptions	Adult / Full				Concession		
	Premium	A-Res/GA	B-Res	C-Res	A-Res/GA	B-Res	C-Res
Book 4 Concerts (Save 25%)	\$387.00	\$297.00	\$267.00	\$147.00	\$237.00	\$207.00	\$117.00
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2. Select a Concert Series

Example: 

Master Series - Sydney Opera House

Select 3 or 4 concerts

Premium

Full (GA)

Concession (GA)

Beethoven's Trio	Sat 16 Feb	2:30pm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Brahms in Love	Sat 15 Jun	2:30pm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Romantic Chopin	Sat 5 Oct	2:30pm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Summer Winds II	Sat 7 Dec	2:30pm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Virtuoso Series - City Recital Hall

Select 3 or 4 concerts

Adult / Full
Prem. A-Res B-Res C-Res Concession
A-Res B-Res C-Res

Grand Mozart	Tue 9 April	7:30pm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
American Masters	Tue 2 Jul	7:30pm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mahler One	Tue 10 Sept	7:30pm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eternal Requiems with The Australian Voices	Tue 5 Nov	7:30pm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. Make a donation

You can ensure Omega Ensemble continues to present the best chamber music in Sydney by making a tax deductible donation with your subscription.

I would like to make a contribution of \$5,000 \$2,500 \$1,000 \$500 Other \$

Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible. Donations of \$250 or more entitle you to Patron status. Find out more about our Patrons' Program at omegaensemble.com.au/support

4. Subscription Summary

Subscription(s)	+	Booking Fee	+	Donation	=	Total
\$		\$		\$		\$

Virtuoso Series Booking Fee: \$8.00 / Master Series Booking Fee: \$8.50. Please note, bookings including both the Master and Virtuoso Series will incur separate booking fees and credit card transactions for each series.

5. Payment Details

I have attached a cheque made out to Omega Ensemble. Please debit my credit card below:

Name on Card	<input type="radio"/> Visa <input type="radio"/> Mastercard
Card Number	Expiry
Signature	CVV

6. How did you hear about our 2019 Season?

Brochure in mail Brochure at venue Brochure from cafe / street Social Media Email

7. Return to us

Post: 2019 Subscriptions Omega Ensemble PO Box 525 Surry Hills NSW 2010	Email: subscriptions@omegaensemble.com.au	Online: omegaensemble.com.au/subscriptions
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Stay tuned in 2019 as we release more live performances and
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Paul Stender
Principal Cello



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Principal Partner



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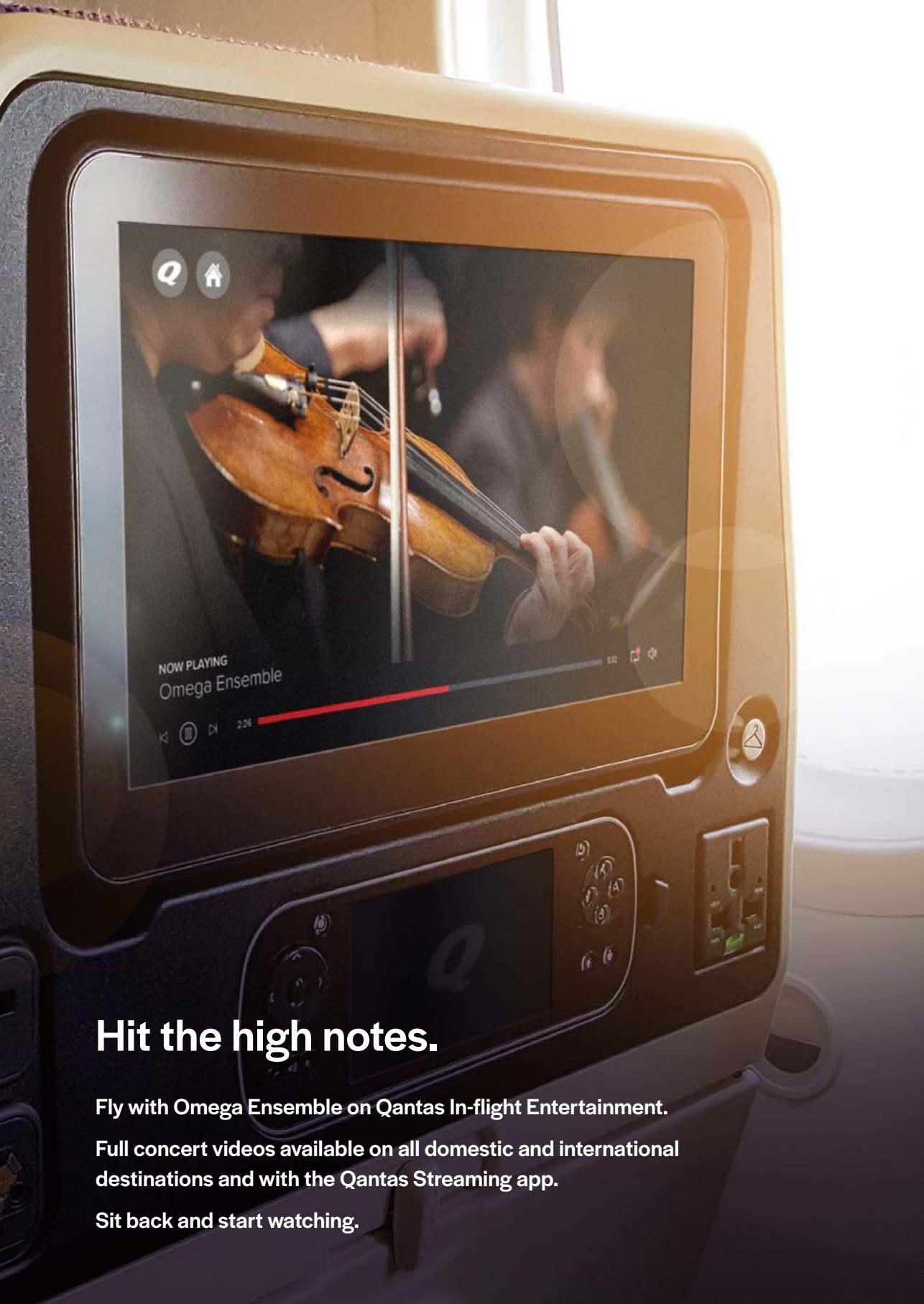
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Design and Art Direction: viqtor.com.au
Photography: Keith Saunders
Research: Gordon Kerry

Acknowledgment of Country Omega Ensemble acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we perform. We pay respect to the Elders both past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

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Sally Walker

Principal Flute

Front Cover:

Veronique Serret

Principal Violin



Omega Ensemble

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PO Box 525, Surry Hills NSW 2010